

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Senator Simitian

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfeld, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Conway, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Furutani, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Skinner, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

May 22, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to breast cancer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 27, as amended, Simitian. Are You Dense Day.

This measure would recognize August 8, 2012, as “Are You Dense?” Day 2012, to raise awareness of the risks associated with breast density and the potential benefits of other screening tools to supplement mammography.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute estimates that one
- 2 in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime and breast
- 3 cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women; and
- 4 WHEREAS, 40 percent of women who get a mammogram have
- 5 dense breast tissue; and

1 WHEREAS, Women who have dense breast tissue have a four
2 to six times greater risk of developing breast cancer compared to
3 women of the same age and health, and are twice as likely to
4 develop breast cancer compared to women of the same age and
5 health who have a first degree relative with breast cancer; and

6 WHEREAS, Research has shown that, using mammography
7 alone, up to 75 percent of cancer is missed in women who have
8 dense breast tissue and dense breast tissue is the most common
9 reason a mammogram fails to detect cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, Although dense breast tissue is routinely observed,
11 characterized, and communicated between doctors as a part of a
12 mammogram examination, doctors speak to less than 9 percent of
13 women about breast density and 95 percent of women do not know
14 their breast density; and

15 WHEREAS, Medical research has shown that the rate of breast
16 cancer detection in women with dense breast tissue increases
17 substantially when breast cancer screening methods, such as
18 ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging, are used to supplement
19 mammography; and

20 WHEREAS, Patient knowledge of breast tissue density has the
21 potential to spare many women the tremendous physical and
22 emotional suffering and financial strain associated with the
23 treatment of advanced breast cancer and can reduce the cost of
24 treating breast cancer by facilitating a diagnosis earlier and
25 allowing treatment to begin when the cancers are smaller and more
26 easily treatable; and

27 WHEREAS, Breast density information should be shared with
28 the patient before the patient and doctor can begin informed
29 discussions regarding the most appropriate and effective breast
30 cancer screening approaches for each individual patient; now,
31 therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
33 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature recognizes August 8, 2012,
34 as “Are You Dense?” Day 2012, in order to raise awareness of the
35 risks associated with breast density and the potential benefits of
36 other screening tools to supplement mammography for women
37 with dense breast tissue; and be it further

38 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages all state legislatures
39 throughout the United States to recognize August 8, 2012, as “Are
40 You Dense?” Day 2012, thereby acknowledging the importance

- 1 of breast density information in the United States and the world;
- 2 and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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